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Deerfield-Bannockburn Fire Protection District

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Federal Commu
Office of

September 29, 2003

The Honorable Senator Richard J. Durbin
230 S. Dearborn - 38th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604

Dear Senator Durbin,

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) published rules on July 13, 2003 that, if implemented, will have a devastating affect on the ability for fire departments and other public safety agencies throughout the United States to modify their existing radio systems. The Commission's actions will negatively affect the fire service's plans to provide interoperability throughout the State of Illinois and surrounding areas.

Action by the Commission will effectively prevent the expansion of existing public safety radio systems and other FCC authorization changes after January 13, 2004. They have also published rules that will prevent the certification, manufacture and importation of radios that will operate on existing public safety radio networks after 2008.

Several years ago the Commission implemented spectrum refarming initiatives that created additional usable radio spectrum for public safety and other users of wireless services. This "refarming" will require virtually all public safety radio users of frequencies below 800 MHz to change the mode of operation of their existing public safety radio systems. A timetable to fully implement the "refarming" was established by the Commission. Public safety users would be required to comply by 2018. This lengthy implementation would give all public safety users more than adequate time to plan, budget and purchase radio equipment that will function on the new "refarmed" narrowband frequencies.

Action by the Commission, published in July, effectively moves up implementation for public safety users by an entire decade. The cost for tens of thousands of fire departments to replace their existing radio equipment with new "narrowband" capable equipment will be staggering.

The Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO), International Municipal Signal Association (IMSA), International Fire Chiefs Association (IAFC), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the National Sheriff's Association (NSA) are just a few of the premier public safety organizations that oppose the Commission's actions. The aforementioned groups filed a Petition for Reconsideration before the Federal

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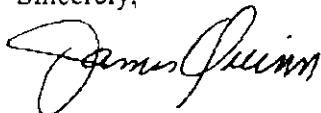
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Communications Commission on August 18, 2003. I have filed a letter support for the Petition for Reconsideration and a copy is included.

Please take a personal interest in this very important public safety issue. Failure of the Commission to repeal its rulemaking will derail many Homeland Security initiatives that are being enacted in Illinois that regard public safety communications interoperability as well as the ability of our nation's first responders to communicate at routine emergencies.

I can be reached at (847) 945-4066 or via e-mail at jquinnDBFD@syn.net if you or members of your staff require additional information. Thank you again for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Quinn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" and last name "Quinn" clearly distinguishable.

James Quinn
Fire Chief